

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENG 1A: BEGINNING COMPOSITION
SECTION 24, CLASS 34386**

Instructor: Ryan Leack
Class Times: MW 3:40 – 5:00pm
Class Location: INTS 2132 S.
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Office: HMNSS – 2306
HUB 2nd Floor Patio Tables
Office Hours: MW 2:00 – 3:30
And by Appointment

AN INTRODUCTION

“Language is often a misleading term; it too often suggests ‘grammar.’ It is a truism that a person can know perfectly the grammar of a language and not know how to use that language. It is not just *what* you say, but *how* you say it. If I enter my neighborhood bar and say to my tattooed drinking buddy, as I sit down, ‘May I have a match please?,’ my grammar is perfect, but what I have said is wrong nonetheless. It is less often remarked that a person could be able to use a language perfectly and *still* not make sense. It is not just *how* you say it, but what you *are* and *do* when you say it. If I enter my neighborhood bar and say to my drinking buddy, as I sit down, ‘Gime a match, wouldya?,’ while placing a napkin on the bar stool to avoid getting my newly pressed designer jeans dirty, I have said the right thing, but my ‘saying-doing’ combination is nonetheless wrong.” – Gee

Writing, then, is not just about learning formats; it’s about assuming a role and gaining ethos *with* that role. Thus, we are here to experiment with “ways of knowing” and “ways of doing,” to try on different *voices* and *identities* in order to engage in dialectics with diverse audiences, for our primary goal is to become effective *writers* and *communicators*. In this class, the four papers – “Remembering an Event,” “Writing Profiles,” “Explaining a Concept,” and “Finding Common Ground” – will give you opportunities to become different people with different voices while still maintaining your individuality. Hopefully by the end of this course you will feel more comfortable with writing as a language in itself, a way of entering and navigating public discourse.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- *St. Martin’s Guide to Writing*, Axelrod et al. (2013: 10th Edition)
- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury (any copy)
- *iLearn Materials* assigned throughout the course

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To engage each other in lively discussions which unearth diverse points of view
- Express personal views clearly and effectively to an audience with substantive detail
- Form clear and coherent arguments while responding to the views of others
- Constructively critique your writing, peers’ writing, and the writing of published authors
- Proofread for clarity and correctness, including grammar, mechanics, and style
- Write lucid, well-organized essays that address purpose, audience, and situation

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Participation & Attendance: We are here to *discuss* ways of effective communication. Interactivity depends on you! So speak up! And don't hesitate to ask questions of any kind at any time.

Reading Assignments: Let's face it: reading requires motivation, and these short, in-classes quizzes and take-home reading questions will test you on core ideas and prepare you for assignments.

Essays & Final: This class requires you to write **4 papers** of increasing sophistication and length, as well as an in class **final**, to be discussed. All essays will be graded on the basis of how well they meet the requirements of the assignment, and are to be turned in via **Safe Assignment** on iLearn. That means that students must utilize all of the *basic features* discussed in the appropriate chapter of *The St. Martin's Guide* and will be graded accordingly. Papers will also need to meet the standards of written English and be free of significant grammatical and structural errors.

Peer Workshops: You will be responding to students' papers anonymously and in peer groups. Any written responses and self-evaluations will be turned in with the final draft of each paper. Not attending a workshop will lower your essay's grade by **5%**. Missing 1 document will result in a **5%** drop in your essay's grade, 2 or more documents in a **10% drop**. Stay organized and be prepared!

Formatting: Follow the MLA System of Documentation found on pages 709-730 of *The St. Martin's Guide*. See 731-738 for an example final draft. Failure to meet these requirements will result in grade penalties. Also, the *Purdue Owl MLA* site is very helpful for all formatting needs.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS

- **Participation** – All students, not a mere few, must regularly participate during class discussions for full credit so that our environment remains interactive and elucidating.
- **Attendance** – Your 4th and subsequent absences will result in eternal damnation, or 10% off your entire grade *per absence* – your choice. All *emergencies* are included as absences!
- **Late Arrivals** – Two late arrivals count as *one* absence; being that you only have *three* absences total, be sure to be on time! Lateness also affects performance and participation.
- **Peer Feedback** – As your professor I will offer every insight, suggestion, and accolade I can muster on your writing. I expect the same from you as a *reader* of others' works.
- **Materials** – This class requires textbooks as well as other materials you will print out and bring to class. Most importantly, bring a *well-developed draft* to the peer workshop.
- **Late Work** – Assignments are due at the *beginning* of class. There are *no exceptions* besides documented reasons, like the spontaneous combustion of your house or loved ones.
- **Academic Honesty** – Plagiarism will result in a *failing grade* on your work or in the course. Plagiarism is quoting or stating someone else's ideas or work without proper citation.
- **Courtesy** – No gadgets, side-conversations, doing homework, sleeping, drumming, eating or drinking except for water, or planning trips to the Caribbean or other exotic destinations.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Main Assignments:

Reading Assignments	15%
Essay 1 (Remembering an Event)	10%
Essay 2 (Writing Profiles)	15%
Essay 3 (Explaining a Concept)	20%
Essay 4 (Finding Common Ground)	25%
Final Exam	5%
Participation (includes other assignments)	10%

Grading Scale:

94 - 100%	A	70 - 73%	C-
90 - 93%	A-	67 - 69%	D+
87 - 89%	B+	64 - 66%	D
84 - 86%	B	60 - 63%	D-
80 - 83%	B-	< 60%	F
77 - 79%	C+		
74 - 76%	C		

TIPS & RESOURCES

- **Office Hours:** If you struggle at any point or have *particular needs*, contact or visit me during office hours. I am here to help and am more than willing to answer questions and review your writing.
- **E-mail & Blackboard:** It is a college-wide policy to **check your school email at least once a day** as you will be notified of changes and messages via e-mail. I will post documents, links, PowerPoints, and readings on iLearn, so check the site for updates and assignments.
- **Conduct:** If you have questions on the conduct expected of you at the university, including matters of personal conduct, professionalism, and behavior, see <http://conduct.ucr.edu>.
- **Special Needs:** If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability, you should contact Student Special Services: <http://specialservices.ucr.edu>.
- **Academic Resource Center:** If you feel you need *additional help* outside of class to overcome any obstacles, please speak with me immediately, make regular use of office hours, and consult with a tutor in the Academic Resource Center: <http://arc.ucr.edu>.
- **Just Start Writing:** If you are stuck on an assignment and do not know what to say, just start writing. Write anything. Sometimes just *freewriting* helps the mind generate ideas.
- **Prewrite First:** Before you begin a paper, *think* about it a lot! Think about it while driving, walking, or doing *anything*. Then draft an outline to ease the writing process and the blinking cursor!

COURSE CALENDAR

*This syllabus is tentative and may change based on the needs of the class.
Please check your UCR email every day to remain current.*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Week 1:	1/9 M	Syllabus Review
	1/11 W	Reading Due: SMG 8-22 (Dillard); 32-35 (Writing) Reading Due: <i>Elbow</i> (iL) In Class: Essay 1 Intro; Choosing an Event
Week 2:	1/16 M	No Class: MLK Day
	1/18 W	Reading Due: <i>Post Office</i> (iL) In Class: Writing Process; Voice
Week 3:	1/23 M	Reading Due: <i>Gee</i> (iL) In Class: Write-Around; Good Writing Writing Due: Gee Questions (iL)
	1/25 W	Reading Due: <i>Fahrenheit 451 Part I</i> In-Class: Peer Review Essay 1
Week 4:	1/30 M	Reading Due: SMG 58-68 (Writing Profiles) Reading Due: SMG 69-74 (Edge); 88-91 (Drafting) Writing Due: Essay 1
	2/1 W	Reading Due: <i>Du Fu</i> (iL) In Class: Share Poems
Week 5:	2/6 M	Reading Due: <i>Fahrenheit 451 Part II</i> In Class: Top 3 Profiles; Profile Outline In Class: Semi/Colons; Style
	2/8 W	Reading Due: <i>Li Bai</i> (iL); SMG 91-98 (Drafting) In Class: Essay 2 Prewriting; Speed Reading In Class: Share Poems
Week 6:	2/13 M	Reading Due: <i>Tao Yuanming</i> (iL) Reading Due: SMG 98-101 (Drafting) In Class: Drafting; Share Poems

	2/15	W	Reading Due: Finish <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> In Class: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Response on Writing In-Class: Peer Review Essay 2
Week 7:	2/20	M	No Class: President's Day
	2/22	W	Reading Due: SMG 103-09 (Revising); 116-28 (Ch 4) Reading Due: SMG 142-49 (Cain); 150-53 (Draft) In Class: Top 3 Concept Options; Essay 3 Intro Writing Due: Essay 2
Week 8:	2/27	M	No Class: Do Reading & Activities at Home Reading Due: SMG 128-34 (Toufexis); 158-61 (Drafting) In Class: Essay 3 Drafting
	3/1	W	Reading Due: <i>STEM Article (iL)</i> In-Class: Peer Review Essay 3
Week 9:	3/6	M	Reading Due: Chapter 5 (iL); <i>Gomez (iL)</i> In Class: Essay 4 Intro Writing Due: Essay 3
	3/8	W	Reading Due: <i>Becker (iL)</i> ; Drafting (iL) In Class: Dissoi Logoi (Opposing Arguments) In Class: Essay 4 Prewrite
Week 10:	3/13	M	Reading Due: <i>Satel (iL)</i> In Class: Peer Review Essay 4
	3/15	W	In Class: Final Exam Writing Due: Essay 4
Finals Week:	3/20	M	Final Evaluation Consultation